

09/705,661

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending. Claim 14 is new. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented herein should place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

In view of the substance of the Interview and the Disclosure of the instant patent application as filed, the Applicants now present an amendment to claim 8 that further limits the scope of the claimed subject matter and distinguishes the cited art, as well as newly added claim 14.

The Applicants teach an apparatus wherein the temperature of the liquid coolant is in the range of 0 to 50° C wherein the evaporator and the pipe lines are able to be connected to lower the design pressure and the ability to resist pressure, to reduce their sizes, and provide advantageous effects over the prior art. The Examiner is respectfully referred to page 12 of the Specification, e.g., lines 13-19. The Applicants further teach that preferred embodiments of the present invention in fact supply liquid coolant in the range of 0 to 50° C to the evaporator and thereby chill the coolant to the temperature in the range of -10 to 40° C by recovering latent heat of the liquefied propylene and/or propane. Page 12 of the Specification, e.g., lines 24-27. Accordingly, the apparatus now defined by the claims, in further contrast to the prior art, particularly requires a means for supplying a liquid coolant in the range of 0 to 50° C to the evaporator to thereby chill the coolant to the temperature in the range of -10 to 40° C. Since this limitation further distinguishes the disclosure of Oswalt, *et al.*, '998, particularly to solve the problem at hand, i.e., an apparatus to significantly increase the efficiency and purity of the production of acrylic acid, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections under 35 USC §103(a).

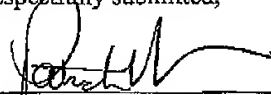
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The Applicants submit that Claims 8-14 are in condition for allowance. Early action toward this end is courteously solicited. The Examiner is kindly encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite any detail of the prosecution.

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It is believed that no fee is required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in connection herewith to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 19, 2004

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